

As peak wildfire danger looms, Lafayette's Emergency Preparedness Commission conducts second town hall



Photo provided

An AlertWildfire camera in the Oakland Hills with the Orinda Country Club seen in the distance.

By Jennifer Wake

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister, during the second Emergency Preparedness Commission "Get Ready for Wildfire Season" town hall on Aug. 25, said they expect to see significant wildland fires in the coming months. "We've reached critical mass in the highest fire danger zone," he said. "This is the time of year when we see the most devastating fires."

McAlister and other pan-

elists - Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt, Emergency Services Coordinator John Cornell and American Red Cross volunteer Briana Taylor - agree that planning for first responders as well as community members will be the key to averting disaster.

Infrastructure has been put in place throughout Lafayette, and in surrounding areas, to ensure quick response time in the event of a fire. AlertCalifornia (formerly AlertWildfire) is now a multi-statewide program with 50 cameras in place to find

wildfires and monitor them once they start. The cameras allow first responders to scale resources up or down within seconds of discovery and follow fire behavior in real time, Cornell said. The Lafayette Police Department also has a mobile camera on a solar powered trailer that can be put in front of a fire to give a closer look to areas might not accessible for personnel. Pacific Gas and Electric Weather Analytics weather stations, which can be accessed online, provide vital real-time wind direction data.

Cornell also outlined a long list of other assets in place, including: multiple community shelter locations; a portable AC/heating system; high speed satellite internet; radios for volunteers; multiple generators; a portable cell phone tower; portable wifi and charging stations; and generator backup on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Moraga Road and Pleasant Hill Road which allows these signals to function properly in the event of a PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff.

ConFire has recently added

bulldozer staff and hand crew staff, which McAlister says "do some of the most backbreaking work and allow our crew to get our equipment back to being service ready."

All this preparation means less if the community isn't involved and prepared. Residents are urged to sign up for the Community Warning System for evacuation alerts at (https://cwsalerts.com). According to Chief Alldritt, the community will be alerted of a fire or other emergency in stages, depending on the severity of the event, beginning with social media, then on Nixel if the emergency will affect the community for a longer period, and finally CWS. "If we're going to evacuate, (the announcement) will go out on CWS," Alldritt said. "This is the top tier."

Taylor suggested using Red Flag days to make sure you're prepared: park your cars outside of the garage and facing out on the driveway, fill your gas tank, check and replenish your go-bag. "During a major fire, people are always surprised how fast a fire moves," Taylor said. "When authorities issue a warning, you need to act."

As at the prior town hall, presenters urged the public to read through the Wildfire Preparation Guide sent to all Lamorinda residents, which can be found at local libraries, as well as police departments and fire stations or can be downloaded at www.lovelafayette.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=5858.

For more information, visit www.lovelafayette.org/wildfire.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Special Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 7, 5 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1 p.m. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org (http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)



18th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

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Siegel loves the art deco appearance of the truck, which is, he says proudly, "a chick magnet!" Really, the truck is a people magnet, with folks always stopping to admire the handsome truck. Most don't recall Diamond T trucks. Siegel's model 4116 was manufactured between 1939 and 1948. The company was later bought by Freightliner in 1969.

Diamond Ts were farm

trucks, and so are rare in California. Siegel says there are perhaps 15 or 20 in good condition in the U.S. He's had offers, but isn't ready to part with his Diamond T, "the Cadillac of trucks," as it was known. The T in the name of the truck is for its designer, the founder of the Chicago company, C.A. Tilt.

Most of the trucks were painted fire-engine red, but Siegel's truck had the California option, which features paint in moleskin (tan) and Rootbeer

(brown). Siegel, who for many years had a successful luggage business, crafted a leather valise that he has attached to the running board of the truck for extra storage. It fits with the look of the truck perfectly. The old truck has some unique features no longer found on modern vehicles. For example, the split windshield opens for ventilation, in addition to side vents.

Siegel grew up in Piedmont and met his wife Sarah at Piedmont High. Sarah is an artist,

specializing in the plein air style. When he was young, Siegel and his friend would go to Emeryville and look at all the truck dealerships. "I saw the Diamond T there," he says, "and I thought it was the best-looking truck of all."

The car show is the Orinda Association's primary fundraiser for Orinda Seniors Around Town, which provides a variety of services for Orinda's senior citizens. The show also raises funds for other local

charities, in aid of local seniors and the broader community. Funds come from the entry fees for vehicles, as well as by donations. Even if you do not enter your vehicle in the Orinda Classic Car Show, you can support the work of the "Seniors Around Town" program by making a donation.

More details about the car show, including how to donate, can be found on the car show website: www.orindacarshow.com

Orinda to offer grants to homeowners on evacuation routes for fuel mitigation

By Sora O'Doherty

Homeowners living on evacuation routes in Orinda will be able to get grants of up to \$599 to incentivize them to perform specific wildfire fuel reduction measures. Having set aside up to \$400,000 of Measure R revenues for incentive grant programs, the council approved the grant scheme at its city council meeting on Aug. 16. The cap of \$599 was set because amounts over that must be declared by homeowners on their taxes. At that amount, the city should be able to finance about 667 grants. There are approximately 8,000 parcels in Orinda.

In order to qualify for the grants, applicants must be Orinda property owners living on evacuation routes who have

had a Fire Adapted Community Assessment or who are in a current Firewise neighborhood. Qualifying expenses would include work on parcels on designated evacuation routes to remove dead trees or Monterey Pine or Eucalyptus trees within 6 feet of a habitable structure or the street and also to clear juniper and/or bamboo within 10 feet of the road.

The grant plan had been discussed the previous evening at the 2x2 meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Orinda City Council. Both at that meeting and at the council meeting, some commenters urged the council to abandon the restriction to evacuation routes and Firewise communities and make the grants more widely available.

In fact, three members of the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee urge the council to make the grants widely available, although the SSTOC itself recommended the restrictions. Paula Reinman of the SSTOC suggested that the MOFD has been working hard to get residents on the evacuation routes into compliance, and that by limiting the grants to these parcels the council is targeting the most resistant people in the community, people who have been asked repeatedly to bring their property into compliance. The other members of the SSTOC who spoke were Chris Decareau and Latika Malkani, who endorsed Reinman's suggestion. Decareau clarified that they were not speaking on behalf of the SSTOC, but adding

their requests to this particular item.

Ultimately, after discussion and consideration, the council decided to keep the restrictions on the grants, but noted that if the program is not successful, it could be quickly changed to delete the restrictions. Council Member Darlene Gee noted that \$599 isn't going to change the world for anybody's property, but might have an effect on "these most resistant homeowners." Vice Mayor Inga Miller said it makes sense to start somewhere, and as the council has the recommendation of the SSTOC which Orinda Senior Management Analyst Micki Cronin has already worked on, she supported starting with the evacuation routes. Council Member Nick Kosla agreed and

supported the program, which he deemed, "fantastic."

While Council Member Amy Worth agreed with Reinman that there is a tremendous advantage to offering the grant to everyone, she said that the city needs to evaluate the rollout and put a finite timeframe on it. "If it isn't working," she suggested, "then open it up to everyone, with priority to evacuation routes." She added, "This is the beginning, not the end. Ultimately, everyone will be eligible." Mayor Dennis Fay also agreed. "If we need to pivot," he said, "we'll pivot."

The city council, having approved the concept of the grant program, asked city staff to bring it back to the council for formal approval before the program is implemented.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixel: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixel.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 7 - Aug. 20

Alarms	38
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	119
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	16
Suspicious Vehicle	14
Service to Citizen	44
Patrol Req./Security Check	44
Public/School Assembly Check	34
Supplemental Report	20
Vacation House Check	49
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
400 Block St Marys Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	

50 Block Lafayette Cir. Walnut St./Dewing Ave.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Tofflemire Dr.	
Avalon Ave./St Marys Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.	
Mildred Ln./N Lucille Ln.	
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute	
Reliez Station Rd Jso Richelle Ct.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud Credit Card	
3100 Block Lucas Dr.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Grand Theft	
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
600 Block Doreen Way	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
20 Block Billington Ct.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Petty Theft Bicycle	
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3100 Block Cordova Way	
3300 Block Woodland Way	
Residential Burglary	
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
3200 Block Andraesen Dr.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Drunk In Public	
Round Table	
Loud Music	
Ruth Ct./El Curtola Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
1000 Block Via Roble	

Loud Noise	
700 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Party	
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Franklin Ln.	
1000 Block Via Roble	
3100 Block Somerset Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2)	
Sunset Lp/Meek Pl.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Vandalism	
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct.	
3500 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
Other	
Animal Cruelty	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass	
3200 Block Camino Diablo	
Unwanted Guest	
10 Block Roxanne Ln.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 16 - Aug. 21

Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	47
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	14
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
20 Block Williams Dr.	
Campolindo Dr./Calle La Mesa	
Dui Misd	
Safeway	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/School St.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Police Department	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	

Other criminal activity	
Checks Non Suff Funds	
Police Department	
Nuisance to the Community	
Loud Music	
300 Block Deerfield Dr.	
Other	
Failure To Obey	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
Fireworks	
Campolindo High School	
Trespass	
600 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Unwanted Guest	
400 Block Center St.	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 14 - Aug. 27

Alarms	33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	116
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	63
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.	
Bryant Way/Davis Rd.	
400 Block Camino Sobrante	
Orinda Way	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Auto Burglary	
Wilder Sports Fields Ori	
60 Block Brookwood Rd.	
Dui Misd	
20 Block Knickerbocker Ln.	
Hit And Run Felony	
Ivy Dr.	

Reckless Driving	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
Ivy Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos	
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
100 Block Canon Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
400 Block Camino Sobrante	
10 Block Parkway Ct.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block St James Ct.	
Panhandling	
Camino Sobrante	
Petty Theft	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
10 Block Hartford Rd.	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
10 Block Dover Ct.	
Residential Burglary	
10 Block S Point Rd.	
60 Block Diablo View Dr.	
40 Block Via Floreado	
Shoplift	
Camino Sobrante	
Moraga Way	
Nuisance to the Community	
Loud Party	
10 Block Paintbrush Ln.	
100 Block Lombardy Ln.	
Public Nuisance	
Moraga Way	
Theatre Square (2)	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
Vandalism	
400 Block Tahos Rd.	
Other	
Impersonation	
Bart Lafayette Station, Laf	
Mentally Ill Commit	
10 Block Frogs Leap Way	
100 Block Ardith Dr.	
200 Block El Toyonal (2)	
80 Block Hillcrest Dr.	
Transient Contact	
Orinda Way	
Trespass	
Camino Sobrante	
Unwanted Guest	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
Violation Of Parole	
Cam Pablo/Santa Maria	
Violation Restraining Ord	
Ivy Dr.	